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The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

We write to you today to request a hearing on reports that health insurers will no longer provide child-only insurance policies. As reported in *Politico*, *The Hill*, and *The Washington Post*, health plans in at least four states have announced that they are dropping children's coverage before new rules created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) forbid those insurers from turning down children with pre-existing conditions. We know this is an important issue to you. Last week you wrote to Aetna Health of California urging the company to "reconsider the unfortunate decision by your company...to suspend the sale of child-only health insurance policies in California."

We believe that a hearing should address whether the PPACA regulations and requirements have made providing this type of insurance too costly and financially unstable. The *Washington Post* reported that insurers have "cited uncertainty in the health insurance market for their decisions" that, according to a Wellpoint spokesperson, "has created an unlevel competitive environment." The Vice President of Public Policy at Cigna told *Politico*, "We would love to stay in the market...you can't have guaranteed issue for this population and be the only one out there. You can't make it work financially."

If industry concerns are true, this is an extremely troubling effect of PPACA. Through PPACA, the Majority may have created market conditions where some of the most vulnerable members of our society will no longer be able to obtain private health coverage. While some children will still be able to enroll in family plans, the new law seriously limits the options available to American families. We must act quickly to learn whether this problem can be solved, and we believe a hearing involving all interested parties would enable everyone to determine how best to move forward.

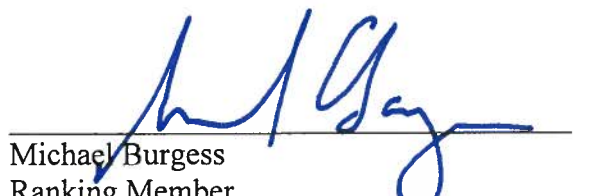
Sadly, it appears this situation might have been preventable. Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger, who is Vice Chair of the Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, said: "This is one of those issues, had there been a [House-Senate] conference committee, it probably would have been worked out." As you are well aware, there was not a conference committee on PPACA because doing so may have jeopardized the Majority's ability to force its purely partisan bill on the American people.

With every passing day, the damaging effects of the PPACA become more apparent. Since passage, the law has failed to lower costs, resulted in an increased projection for national health expenditures, and caused private insurers to announce premium increases. And now we learn that the law will make fewer options available to children. Yet, since passage, this Committee still has yet to hold a single hearing on the law. We respectfully request that you end the Majority's practice of ignoring the effects of the law and schedule a hearing on this issue as soon as possible. Considering that the letter to Aetna was signed by you and four other Committee Members, we believe there is ample support for such a hearing.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member

John Shimkus
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health

Michael Burgess
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations